



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008

No. 98

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 13, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LOIS CAPPS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Pastor George Torres, Jr., International Calvary Church, Springfield, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Lord Father, as we appreciate the splendor of a beautiful day, we give You thanks for the opportunity to cherish the freedom that You provide us as citizens of this country.

We thank You for Your grace and mercy which showers us daily. We thank You for friends, loved ones and for Your eternal sacrifice which has given us hope.

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the men and the women of this House, their families and their staff, who continue to do the work of this country. Grant them the wisdom and strength to make decisions and lead our Nation.

May they learn to depend on You for guidance during our most difficult times as a country.

May Your will always be done in this land, and may Your love abound in our hearts.

I ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008, AT PAGE H5390

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3179. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to authorize the use of Federal supply schedules for the acquisition of law enforcement, security, and certain other related items by State and local governments.

H.R. 3913. An act to amend the International Center Act to authorize the lease or sublease of certain property described in such Act to an entity other than a foreign government or international organization if certain conditions are met.

H.R. 6124. An act to provide for the continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1245. An act to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capital Region.

S. 2516. An act to assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7134. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus firmus* isolate 1582; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0159; FRL-8362-7] received May 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7135. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of Homeland Security, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7136. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting the 2007 Annual Report of the Appraisal Subcommittee, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 3332; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7137. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurement Under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Financial Assistance Agreements* [Docket ID NO. EPA-HQ-OA-2002-0001; FRL-

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H5411

8545-9] (RIN: 2090-AA38) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; States of South Dakota and Wyoming; Interstate Transport of Pollution [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-0648; FRL-8563-6] received May 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Control of Hazardous Air Pollutants from Mobile Sources: Early Credit Technology Requirement Revision [EPA-HQ-2005-0036; FRL-8564-3] (RIN: 2060-AO89) received May 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7140. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No. 08-0A, relating to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 06-51 of 28 September 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7141. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Fifth Quarterly Report on the Status of Significant Unresolved Issues with the Department of Energy's Design and Construction Projects, as required in House Conference Report 109-702, Section 3201; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations.

7142. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting an annual report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

7143. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification that the Department intends to use FY 2008 IMET funds for the enclosed list of countries, pursuant to Public Law 110-161, section 634A; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

313. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Resolution No. 30 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are

necessary to create a national catastrophe fund; to the Committee on Financial Services.

314. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Massachusetts, relative to a Resolution memorializing the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of State to encourage Turkey to respect the religious rights of all people; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

315. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, relative to House Resolution No. 1 urging the United States to withdraw from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North American and any other bilateral or multilateral activity which seeks to create a North American Union; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

316. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 82 urging the Congress of the United States to enact and the President of the United States to approve, a supplemental appropriation to restore the funding to Fermilab to the level of the President's FY2008 budget request; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2332: Mr. NUNES, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. TOWNS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

270. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City Council of Atlanta, Georgia, relative to Resolution No. 08-R-0856 requesting that the Congress of the United States enact legislation to encourage lenders and loan servicers to work out unsound loans as an alternative to foreclosure; to the Committee on Financial Services.

271. Also, a petition of Mr. Wayne T. Gilchrest, Member of Congress, and Mr. Elijah E. Cummings, Member of Congress, relative to a petition urging consideration of the principles outlined in the 2006 Iraq Study Group (ISG) Report; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 8, June 10, 2008, by Mr. TIM WALBERG on H.R. 3089, was signed by the following Members: Tim Walberg, Jo Bonner,

Ron Lewis, Mac Thornberry, Rodney Alexander, Steve Chabot, John R. Carter, Todd Russell Platts, Elton Gallegly, Frank D. Lucas, John Linder, Zach Wamp, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Darrell E. Issa, David Davis, Jack Kingston, Harold Rogers, Terry Everett, John Campbell, Charles W. Dent, Robert E. Latta, Kay Granger, John Abney Culberson, Trent Franks, Joseph R. Pitts, Thomas M. Reynolds, Ralph M. Hall, Pete Sessions, Phil Gingrey, Spencer Bachus, Paul C. Broun, Ted Poe, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Bill Sali, Candice S. Miller, Kevin Brady, Jeff Miller, C. W. Bill Young, Sam Johnson, Devin Nunes, John Kline, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Jerry Lewis, Ken Calvert, John L. Mica, Michael R. Turner, K. Michael Conaway, Tom Cole, Thelma D. Drake, Adrian Smith, Dean Heller, Scott Garrett, Ron Paul, Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, Steve King, Wally Herger, Jean Schmidt, Michele Bachmann, Marsha Blackburn, Daniel E. Lungren, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Doug Lamborn, Rob Bishop, Nathan Deal, J. Gresham Barrett, Lamar Smith, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Roy Blunt, Bob Goodlatte, Frank R. Wolf, Randy Neugebauer, Dan Burton, John Shimkus, Mary Fallin, Patrick J. Tiberi, Jim Jordan, Eric Cantor, Donald A. Manzullo, Steve Scalise, Paul Ryan, Joe Barton, Peter Hoekstra, Tom Price, Stevan Pearce, W. Todd Akin, Mary Bono Mack, Virginia Foxx, Patrick T. McHenry, Jeb Hensarling, John Boozman, Tom Davis, Dennis R. Rehberg, Ray LaHood, J. Randy Forbes, Mark E. Souder, John A. Boehner, David Dreier, Lee Terry, Gary G. Miller, Robin Hayes, Andrew Crenshaw, Mike Pence, Ginny Brown-Waite, Kenny Marchant, Chris Cannon, Jo Ann Emerson, John M. McHugh, Mike Rogers, John B. Shadegg, Robert B. Aderholt, Dave Camp, Peter J. Roskam, Michael T. McCaul, Marilyn N. Musgrave, George Radanovich, Robert J. Wittman, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., John J. Duncan, Jr., Edward R. Royce, Tom Latham, Michael C. Burgess, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Adam H. Putnam, Peter T. King, Joe Wilson, Phil English, John T. Doolittle, Howard Coble, Fred Upton, Jerry Weller, Jon C. Porter, Geoff Davis, Tom Feeney, and Louie Gohmert.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 3 by Mr. PENCE on House Resolution 694: Roberta E. Latta, Robin Hayes, Steve Scalise, John M. McHugh, and Mike Rogers.

Petition 7 by Mr. FOSSELLA on H.R. 5440: Robin Hayes.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, in compliance with Republican Conference earmark disclosure requirements, I would like to submit the following statement for the record.

Bill Number: H.R. 2645.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force.

Line 8, 0602102.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United Technologies Corporation (UTC).

Address of Requesting Entity: 411 Silver Lane; M/S 129-88, East Hartford, CT 06108.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$5M to develop and demonstrate high temperature gas turbine airfoils using fiber-reinforced ceramic matrix composite (CMC) technology, for advanced military gas turbine engines for F135 (JSF Growth). With the funding, UTC will accelerate the development of this new class of materials with significant potential DoD benefits. Recent studies have shown that CMC 3rd blades in the F135 growth engine have the potential to save more than 42 pounds of engine weight and lead to consequent cooling air savings of 1.67%, leading to significant performance improvement and fuel savings. As this is a research and development project, which is not yet under contract, a detailed budget breakdown is not yet available. Nearly all of the funding would be dedicated to engineering work.

PREVIEWING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE—A NEW YORK GATHERING OF CARICOM HEADS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the coming of a thoroughly New York and Caribbean affair, a first-of-its-kind Big Apple meeting between the heads of state of the CARICOM nations, the financial movers and shakers in Wall Street, and the city's loyal Caribbean constituency. This two-day Caribbean Community Conference, to be held in New York City June 19 through 20, aims to connect the Caribbean Diaspora with the leaders of their ancestral homes and promote a dialogue regarding the region's economic and social development. The conference arrives at an opportune time, as these nations push forward with their plan for a single, integrated market economy and are faced with the challenges of rising food and energy costs, the contagiousness of a slumping U.S. economy, and the staggering impacts of a skyrocketing inflation. This un-

precedented coming together of the minds will emphasize the role of trade and investment as engines of growth.

The idea of inviting CARICOM leaders to New York came to me at last year's CARICOM summit in Barbados. It seemed natural to me that these leaders gather in the city where perhaps the largest concentration of Caribbean descendants outside of the region is found. The well-being and livelihood of the Caribbean nations are of paramount importance to these expatriates, but also to New York, and America, as well. We mean to extend a friendly hand to our neighbors to the south—from the member states of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Carriacou & Petite Martinique, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and the Republic of Trinidad to the territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands—and communicate to them that they have neighbors in New York and in this country who are friends and supporters who want to contribute to their successful economic development.

These leaders will have the opportunity to interface with the industrial and financial leaders of the city, including meeting with the leaders of the investment banking community in a meeting at Goldman Sachs and being welcomed at a lunch hosted by the New York Stock Exchange, at which a relationship between the Exchange and stock exchanges in the region will be announced. In order to spur their small-market economies, they will need an increased amount foreign direct investment and a disposition to trade that will elevate the living standards of the Caribbean people.

The conference kicks off Thursday with a breakfast in Brooklyn, an education symposium at Medgar Evers College, and a luncheon where Governor David Paterson will give the keynote address. That afternoon will feature state and federal trade meetings, capping off with a dinner at Gracie Mansion, hosted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Friday will offer private meetings where investment, small-market economies, tourism, agriculture, and technology will be the topics of discussion. After a tour of Harlem and a visit to the Schomburg Center, the day closes with a Diaspora Forum at York College.

I introduce into the RECORD an article and two editorials from the New York CARIB News that preview the event as a boon for Caribbean and American relations and having great promise in the establishment of new initiatives that will contribute to the economic development of the region.

As partners in the Western Hemisphere, intent on improving the quality of life in their regions, these heads of sovereign nations merit our attentive ear and an outreached hand. May this historic gathering—on New York soil—be that first step.

CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE INITIATIVE, FROM BROOKLYN TO WALL STREET

RANGEL, GREAT FRIEND OF CARICOM SEES OPPORTUNITY FOR DIASPORA TO DISPLAY PRIDE AND FOR LEADERS TO PURSUE PATHS FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION

It's an initiative with twin-goals, one aimed at the large Caribbean Diaspora in the United States and the other to promote the economic and social development of Caricom nations.

And if they are achieved U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, one of the most influential elected representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, would be more than just satisfied.

Actually, he was describing the objectives of the two-day Caribbean Community Conference in New York City on June 19-20. It's a meeting he first suggested to Caricom Heads of Government when he attended their summit in Barbados last year, a few weeks after the region's Presidents and the Prime Minister had completed a highly successful conference in Washington where they met with Congressional leaders as well as U.S. President George Bush and Condi Rice, the U.S. Secretary of State.

"I believe it is important for the heads of government of these sovereign states to come to the City where perhaps the largest Caribbean community can be found outside of the region itself and to meet with their nationals," he told an Editorial Board meeting of Carib News and said later in an interview with the paper.

"I would like everybody of Caribbean ancestry and those that work with and love them, to be able to see in person the Heads of Government of these sovereign countries, the Prime Ministers and the Presidents and to be able to identify beyond the United States to reflect on their culture, their backgrounds with pride and enthusiasm," Rangel, the Dean of the New York Congressional delegation, added. "It's our hope that the heads of state and Heads of Government realize that they have very strong friends politically and culturally in New York and in the country. It's our hope that there would be an explosion of pride and joy in what would be a Caribbean and New York celebration."

But that's not all about the conference. The other plank in its foundation is on the economic side.

"The leaders are very busy people, who come from small market economies and we want to bring them together with the industrial and financial leaders of the City, including the Wall Street executives in order for the Heads of Government to show that their nations are keen to welcome foreign direct investment and boost trade as part of their drive to improve the living standards of their people," he said. "These countries are our allies and friends and their track record of respecting human and property rights and their commitment to the free enterprise system and the rule of law should be recognized for what it is: an outstanding history that shouldn't be ignored by anyone."

And as if to underscore the emphasis on trade, investment and economic development, Congressman Rangel was instrumental in getting Wall Street to give the Caricom leaders red carpet treatment on June 20th with meetings at Goldman Sachs, the large investment bank whose Chairman and Chief Executive officer, Lloyd Blankfein, is to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

serve as the host of a breakfast and later an investment meeting at which Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent's Prime Minister, is to be the region's key spokesman.

The New York Stock Exchange, perhaps the world's largest and best known, is hosting a lunch for the Prime Ministers and Presidents, the first of its kind ever arranged for the Caricom leadership.

"We see these as important steps forward because they will enable the leaders to exchange ideas about economic growth in the Caribbean and to speak about their aspirations for their own countries and the region as a whole as they push ahead with plans for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, CSME," said Rangel.

The Ways and Means Committee Chairman also told the Consuls-General and community leaders who attended the Editorial Board meeting that the Congressional Black Caucus was fully behind the Caribbean's efforts to accelerate the pace of their economic and social expansion. "The Caucus has been fully on board on this initiative from the inception," was the way he put it. "Congressman Donald Payne, Representatives Gregory Meeks of Queens, Yvette Clarke and Ed Towns of Brooklyn, Bennie Thompson, Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee and a host of others are very supportive of this undertaking and are confident of its success."

Several top consular officials including the Consuls-General of Antigua, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti attended the Editorial Board Meeting where Rangel explained that he had recently requested the U.S. Trade Commission to "evaluate the resources in the islands" and prepare a report on trade and economic opportunities in the Caribbean.

"I am sure that Caricom and other agencies in the Caribbean have already prepared a similar report but I want to find out where can our (American) investors go and what they would be looking for in terms of mutually beneficial economic opportunities.

"This would be a resource book, not any plan for the Caribbean, but one that would inform us about the thinking of the leaders of these sovereign nations. We want to find out what they believe they can accomplish individually and collectively and in our case to accelerate growth in their countries," he said.

The Chairman is said to have been instrumental in encouraging the U.S. Special Trade Representative, Susan Schwab to come to Brooklyn on June 19th to meet with Caricom leaders behind closed doors to discuss U.S. and Caribbean trade issues.

Rangel considers the Diaspora forums, the sessions on education and other issues designed to give Caribbean immigrants a chance to exchange ideas with their leaders from "back home" as being of "critical importance" to the successful outcome of the conference because "they would boost the pride and interest" of the people who live in New York in the lands from which they came and to which they are inextricably linked. "There is a sense of unbelievable pride among people from the various islands and nothing would please me more than to see them demonstrating it as they meet their Prime Ministers or Presidents," he added.

HISTORIC CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE IN NY—CARICOM LEADERS DESERVE ENTHUSIASTIC RED CARPET WELCOME

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, one of Capitol Hill's most influence lawmakers and McChesney Emanuel, current Chairman of the Caribbean Consul Corps in New York, have a single goal, one which we share.

It is the upcoming New York Conference on the Caribbean Community 2008 must be

highly successful. Planned at the urging of Rangel, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives and planned by members of a steering committee headed by Emanuel, Antigua & Barbuda's Consul-General, and the Caricom Secretariat in Guyana, the two day meeting can open some very important financial doors to the entire Caribbean while at the same time drawing the nations and the Diaspora closer together.

"I would like everybody of Caribbean ancestry and those that work with them and love them, to be able to see in person the heads of government of these sovereign countries, the Prime Ministers and Presidents and be able to identify beyond the United States to reflect on their culture, their backgrounds with pride and enthusiasm" was the way Rangel put it.

The Consul-General used different words to express a similar sentiment when he expressed the hope that the two-day conference would "provide access to and an enabling environment for dialogue between the Diaspora and the Leaders of Caricom."

Clearly, Rangel, the Caribbean and its consular representatives are on the same page.

But this historic conference, the first of its kind to be held in New York City isn't simply about the Diaspora. The Prime Ministers and Presidents are also coming to talk trade, investment and economic development with some of the movers and shakers of Wall Street and Washington. It's the kind of access that few groups of developing countries have ever had.

The Congressman has used his considerable clout and that of other members of the Congressional Black Caucus to ensure that investment bankers, financial experts and the New York Stock Exchange give the Caribbean the ear and the welcome the region's leaders deserve.

Medgar Evers College and York College of the City University of New York as well as the University of the West Indies are also doing their part to ensure that a meaningful dialogue about education and the role of Caribbean immigrants in their countries' development takes place between the West Indians and their leaders.

That's why it's so important for the large immigrant community to turn out in droves at the public sessions which have been organized for them to meet their leaders and to articulate their hopes and dreams for the region and their respective birthplaces.

WHEN CARIBBEAN SOVEREIGN NATIONS COME TO TOWN IT'S ABOUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"They are leaders of sovereign nations and they have earned our attention."

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the most influential panel on Capitol Hill, the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, was explaining, in a very succinct and straightforward manner, why he really wants the 2008 Caribbean Community Conference in New York City to be a success and why New York must bring out the red carpet "for Our country's friends in the Caribbean."

The Congressman, the moving force behind the decision of Caricom leaders to meet in New York City on June 19-20, has invested a considerable amount of time and effort, not to mention the prestige of his office in order to ensure that key elements of the conference's agenda, for instance the meetings with financiers and others on Wall Street occur at the highest level.

The Caribbean is fortunate to have a highly respected friend in the right and influential place in the U.S. and Congressman Rangel has demonstrated once again his considerable interest in the economic well-being of

the Caribbean region. True friendship doesn't come any better than this.

The conference in New York comes on the heels of last year's highly successful series of meetings in Washington last June when the Caribbean's Presidents and Prime Ministers went to Capitol Hill at the invitation of the Congressional Black Caucus and the active support of the Bush Administration, including President George Bush, Secretary of State Condi Rice and other top political decision-makers. On that list too were the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States.

In 2007 they discussed such crucial questions as the extension of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, foreign investment in the region, the troublesome issue of the criminal deportees from the United States, as well as U.S. economic and technical assistance to the island nations and coastal states that comprise Caricom. Back then too, the issue of security and how the U.S. and Caricom could work closer together in a heightened atmosphere of terrorism that can be traced directly to 9/11 was high on the agenda.

Although this month's talks will take up from where Washington left off, the New York deliberations are going in a different but equally important direction: an emphasis on trade and investment as engines of economic and social growth. The focus couldn't have been at a more opportune time. With Caribbean economic well-being facing threats from the standstill in the U.S. economy; food prices going through the roof; the cost of energy at record levels; and with skyrocketing inflation digging a deeper hole in people's wallets in the Caribbean, the nations and territories have to find effective ways to boost their economies.

These emerging market economies in the sub-region of the Western Hemisphere are committed to the free enterprise system and intend to continue using it to boost living standards. Objectively, they have done a good job, some much better than others. Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas and Barbados have investment grade ratings by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's, perhaps the world's best-known rating firms. Barbados, St. Kitts-Nevis, the Bahamas, Antigua and Trinidad and Tobago are in the top tier of the 180 nations surveyed annually by the United Nations Development Program when it comes to the quality of life.

When the World Health Organization looked at the provision of health services around the world, it gave Dominica one of the highest scores. And when the World Economic Forum, Transparency International, the International Telecommunications Union and Freedom House undertook in-depth analyses of economic and technical conditions in different parts of the globe, many of the countries participating in this month's conference received high ratings. These good reports on investment climates, high-tech availability, and relatively low levels of corruption and red tape are clear evidence of countries with considerable appeal for investors interested in doing business.

That's why Congressman Rangel's efforts to help open Wall Street's doors to Caricom leaders are so important. Right now, few, if any the executives at Goldman Sachs and the New York Stock Exchange, for instance, would give Caribbean islands a second and serious look when considering billion-dollar investment deals. But the conference would help the countries and the executives know more about each other. That's a good beginning.

Of course, the financiers know about Antigua, the Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St.

Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados and their neighbors as playgrounds, destinations where the sea, sand and sun are attractive magnets only in times of relaxation. But a mix of their small economic size and their invisibility in the global financial community ensures they don't register on the economic radar screen.

The sessions on Wall Street and with the U.S. Special Trade Representative, Ambassador Susan Schwab are but an important first step. As New York City's Comptroller, William "Bill" Thompson, recommended at last year's Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference in Antigua, Caricom member-states must mount a vigorous marketing campaign to get their stories told along the hallways of big-finance.

That story is one of economic stability, commitment to law and order, respect for people's property rights and a determination to allow market forces to propel economic and social development. They are all marketable qualities. Singapore, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda are also small countries but they have earned for themselves a loud voice in international financial circles. They have demonstrated that they have a high degree of economic discipline, a factor which has propelled them to levels which few could have imagined 30 years ago.

Another thing. The doors to the world's best known financial market which Con-

gressman Rangel is opening for the countries in the Caribbean would have cost the region several millions of dollars in lobbying and consultancy fees, if Caribbean states had gone on their own to get the job done. The Black elected official from Harlem doesn't want any favor in return for his assistance and he doesn't expect any.

"I simply wish to see the countries move forward and that their people reap the benefits. That's my reward," was the way he put it.

No one could have said it better.
That's the true mark of friendship.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, in compliance with Republican Conference earmark disclosure requirements, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD.

Bill Number: H.R. 2645.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army Line 179, 0708045A.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United Technologies Corporation (UTC).

Address of Requesting Entity: 411 Silver Lane; M/S 129—88, East Hartford, CT 06108.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$3 million to develop a vehicle wide scaled armor protection system for cargo and troop transport helicopters to reduce their vulnerability to small arms fire. With the funding, UTC will accelerate a statistical design system based on battlefield experience that can be used to guide the placement and scaling of new armor systems. Light weight ballistic material systems, based on novel ceramic materials, can be appropriately and selectively scaled and integrated into the helicopter to significantly decrease the vulnerability while minimizing the impact on payload and mission. The solution needs to include sensitivity to direction, stand off distance, obliquity and type of threat. The armor could then be customized and integrated to provide effective ballistic protection. This solution would limit the weight impact of reduced vulnerability while maintaining the mission capability of the vehicle.

As this is a research and development project, which is not yet under contract, a detailed budget breakdown is not yet available. Nearly all of the funding would be dedicated to engineering work.

Daily Digest

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2008.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Capps to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.

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Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Pastor George Torres, Jr., International Calvary Church, Springfield, Virginia.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, June 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6049, Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1231
Shays, Christopher, Conn., E1231, E1233



Congressional Record

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